## CLAIMS:

1. A method of producing an immunogen, which method comprises polymerising a hirudin and/or a hirudin-like protein.

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- 2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like protein are/is polymerized with glutaraldehyde.
  - 3. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).
- 4. A method according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.
  - 5. An immunogen comprising a polymerised hirudin and/or hirudin-like protein.
    - 6. An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin is HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5).
- 7. An immunogen according to claim 5 wherein the hirudin-like protein is a derivative of HV1 (SEQ ID NO: 1), HV2 (SEQ ID NO: 2), HV3 (SEQ ID NO: 3), P1 (SEQ ID NO: 4) or P2 (SEQ ID NO: 5) by way of amino acid substitution, deletion, insertion, extension, functionalisation or chemical modification, said derivative having anti-thrombin activity.
- 8. An immunogen according to claim 5, 6 or 7 obtainable by polymerising the hirudin and/or the hirudin-like protein with glutaraldehyde.
  - 9. A method of producing an antibody capable of binding to a hirudin or a hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an immunogen as claimed in claims 5 to 8.
- 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a polyclonal antibody.

- 11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.
- 12. A method for the quantitative determination, purification or identification of a hirudin or hirudin-like protein, said method comprising raising antibody against an
  5 immunogen as claimed in claims 5 to 8, and using the antibody thereby obtained in said quantitative determination, purification or identification.